

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3480

S E C R E T JIDDA 0607

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA, EG, US

SUBJECT: TRAINING OF EGYPTIANS IN SAUDI F-5 PROGRAM

REF STATE 17455

1. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED FOLLOWING REPORT FROM GENERAL AHMANN WITH REGARD TO LATEST STATUS OF EGYPTIANS IN F-5 TRAINING PROGRAM:

2. THE SIX EGYPTIAN PILOTS CEASED FLYING TRAINING ON JAN 21, APPARENTLY IN RESPONSE TO ORDERS FROM EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER WHO VISITED DHAHRAN ON JAN 20. HOWEVER, AS OF THIS DATE THE EGYPTIAN PILOTS ARE STILL PRESENT ON THE AIR BASE AND HAVE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN GROUND TRAINING (IN ORDER TO KEEP THEM BUSY, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON). NONE IS BEING PROVIDED; HOWEVER, PILOTS ARE USING ENGLISH LANGUAGE TAPES FROM PRIOR COURSES.

3. THE NINE TECHNICIANS ARE PARTICIPATING IN CLASSROOM TECHNICAL TRAINING CONDUCTED BY RSAF INSTRUCTORS. NO U.S. PERSONNEL ARE INVOLVED. THE FIRST TWO TECHNICIANS ARE SCHEDULED TO COMPLETE THIS PHASE ON FEB 11 AFTER WHICH A FOUR WEEK ON-THE-JOB TRAINING COURSE IS SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE. RSAF INSTRUCTORS ARE CAPABLE AND AVAILABLE TO CONTINUE THIS TECHNICAL TRAINING THROUGH THE FEB 11 DATE.

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4. FROM ALL INDICATIONS, THE EGYPTIANS HAVE IN-

INSTRUCTIONS TO TERMINATE ALL FLYING TRAINING BUT TO CONTINUE GROUND TECHNICAL TRAINING. THUS, THE WITHDRAWAL FROM FLYING TRAINING HAS NOT AS YET SOLVED OUR PROBLEM. IN FACT, THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE IDLE PILOTS (WITH NO KNOWN DEPARTURE DATE) CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROBLEM AS THEY SEEK FURTHER GROUND TRAINING.

5. THE REQUIREMENT TO TERMINATE GROUND TRAINING HAS DEFINITELY NOT FILTERED DOWN TO THE EGYPTIANS HERE. ADDITIONALLY, THE PILOTS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN ADVISED TO REMAIN AT DHAHRAN INDEFINITELY. OUR OPINION IS THAT THE HIGHER LEVEL COORDINATION OR INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BECOME GARBLED AND EGYPTIANS APPARENTLY HAVE THE FOLLOWING TWO MISCONCEPTIONS:

A. THEY DO NOT THINK THAT TECHNICIAN TRAINING REPRESENTS ANY PROBLEM;

B. THEY BELIEVE THAT FLYING TRAINING WILL BE REINSTATED.

6. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY CAIRO, IN ITS NEXT REPRESENTATION TO VICE PRESIDENT MOBAREK, MENTION THAT SOME PROGRESS HAS OCCURRED TOWARD PHASING OUT PROGRAM, AND THAT WE HOPE FURTHER ACTION COULD BE TAKEN TO TERMINATE IT.

7. WE AGREE WITH PARA 3 REFTEL THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF DEPARTMENT COULD AUTHORIZE LATERAL TRANSMISSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN JIDDA AND CAIRO.
PORTER

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